

I would think any company wanting to come to Michigan would want knowledgeable, creative, flexible and thinking workers to adapt to their company environment and further the company goals. Sorry, but for more than 6 years in Michigan, the future workers have had their dreams destroyed by the cognitive dissonance of Common Core 'standards'.

Picture the bright-eyed 6 year excited to enter school and grow, learn neat things and get to know other kids. He is intelligent but nothing makes sense in this strange world of school. You can see it in the eyes and the pain he experiences.

Learning reading is like learning Chinese characters because phonics is off the program. What is he given to read but dry fact sheets, occasionally an uninteresting story. One plus one doesn't have to equal 2 – the process which is long and cumbersome – is the 'important part.' Common Core changes the terms so parents can't help and puts topics at the beginning that should be for much older children or not at all because mathematicians have long ago fought through those battles. Young children are sponges needing to memorize algorithms not invent the wheel.

History is all bad things about America. Group work means one does the work, the others tag on the results. Science is about something called global warming and worse. There is no sense to the science 'experiments' and the student will find that much is missing: biology, chemistry, the necessary mathematical concepts (algebra, geometry) to do real science experiments. Some lessons is so easy, a 3 or 4 year old could do it. Some lessons are so difficult high schoolers might be able to understand some of it. The writers of Common Core are not educators and do not understand developmental stages.

Test scores have deteriorated to the point where it looks like only about 30% of our kids can read and do math.

#### Common Core: the Obamacare of Education

1. Was hurriedly written in secret with little to no input from the public.
2. Keeps its true goal camouflaged.
3. Is a federal government overreach into our lives in contradiction of clearly stated powers assigned to the states in the U.S. Constitution?
4. Is a federal and corporate intrusion into our private property (data).
5. Will lower the standards in a sector of society it purports to want to raise.
6. Will cost much greater than promised.
7. Will add to the deterioration of our country's exceptionalism.
8. Was put into place by coercing states with the promise of federal money.

9. Is collusion between Big Business hungering for profit and Big Government hungering for power and control.
10. Is a centrally controlled delivery system, shaped by Big Government and steeped in the Progressive world view of uniformity.
11. Is being opposed by a grassroots opposition as the effects of its implementation are being felt.

“We expect that when the test comes out the teachers in the classroom will imitate the skills emphasized on the test (teach to the test) and employ this new way of writing and thinking.” Trainer in C.C. testing.

“We don’t ever care what the kids’ opinions are. If they write what they think or put forth their opinion then they fail the test.” C.C. Trainer.

Progressive philosophies have infected both Republican and Democratic parties. They have been rejected by the American electorate when their true objectives have been exposed.

American Progressivism is a world view irrespective of national boundaries that looks to the rest of the world for models of how the United States should behave rather than looking at America’s exceptionalism. It uses revisionist history and pseudoscience.

**Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** is the financial ‘sugar daddy’.

**David Coleman:** one of the architects of Common Core, now head of the College Board is pulling college admission tests and standards into the cult of Common Core, dumbing down the SAT so dumbed down CC kids can pass it. There is no penalty for wrong answers, guessing is encouraged, and the essay portion is optional so they get into college to start running up student debt with loans controlled by the federal government.

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce** pushes the idea that businesses just want a more educated work force while simultaneously push for amnesty and more immigration to let unskilled, cheap labor flood the country. Our universities are full of foreign students and women – few men.

The National Teacher of the Year organization is a project of CCSSO (the Washington based Council of Chief State School Officers) which wrote the common core standards (not state leaders) and holds its copyright. These teachers are trained and sent out to proclaim how great common core is. Bill Gates is funding Teacher Voices Convening (TVC) to advocate on behalf of Common Core.

In the past each state operated as a laboratory and made its own tests. In **Massachusetts**, Dr. Sandra Stotsky set up the ‘gold standard’ language arts (reading and writing) standards along with tests which showed huge gains in student learning. Other states were impressed and used the program for their students. However, the wonderful program was given up so that Massachusetts – like Michigan - could get stimulus money (in 2009 Recession) and not suffer the demands of No Child Left Behind. **The money came with requirements – adopt Common Core standards sight unseen** since they were not created yet. The feds then paid over \$300 million for 2 groups (National Governors Association

[NGA] and CCSSO) to have **29 people** – mostly from testing and textbook companies -- **write the “Standards”**. **Group the states into consortiums** ( PARCC and Smarter Balanced) which designed testing requiring many new computers for the schools be purchased. **NSA- like data suctioning systems** required the teachers to gather the information on each student pre-school through college and beyond.

**THE MASSACHUSETTS PROGRAM in EFFECT DURING 2008-2009 is ONLINE and FREE to my last understanding.**

**I am a teacher**, K-8, graduated from Central Michigan University and with a Master’s Degree from U of M. I began teaching in the 1960s at Mapleton School in Midland, Mi. with the discovery of many “D” students in my 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. I also read each student’s report file from former teachers. Problem one was solved by keeping any student who didn’t do the work after school for one-on-one time. As I got to know the students, I realized they were not the same children in the reports which had been repeated every year. They grew and changed in 6 years.

At the next school in Midland, I met a brilliant girl who always kept good story books inside her school books as she was so bored. She always got “A”s for 6 years but decided to start getting Cs and Ds. I gave her some more difficult papers to write comparing books, etc., in place of the class work and she wrote some college level articles. A teacher needs flexibility to help each different child learn.

One year the new math textbooks didn’t come for 6 weeks. I used games acquired during my Masters study and found the alignment of the class changed. Some of the students usually at the bottom of the class grading, became top grade earners. Some at the top couldn’t reason the games though they found the book requirements easier.

Maybe 15 years ago, I tutored a homeschooled girl that wanted to go to public high school and didn’t understand algebra. The public school books were so confusing because of all the review that one could hardly find the new lesson. All she really needed was to simplify with one lesson at a time and define the mathematical terms.

In the same time period, I tutored a blond girl who was all the term implies. She did learn algebra and both she her mother thank me still today.

We homeschooled our 5 children for various years over about 15 years. Math ideas build step by step which is why Common Core is totally missing the boat. I used a paperback called “Math Made Easy” which was so well done that I usually only gave them 4-6 problems a day. They had to know the last day to do the next day so review wasn’t needed.

### **Results of schooling my 5 children:**

**#1 Boy-** loved trucks from birth. At 5 years, he was determined to be gifted with a high IQ. Poor school experience and much love needed out of school in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Because he was home, he got to know a 16 year old small engine repairer near us who gave him the frame for a mini-bike. He dialogued with repair shop owners all over as he gathered his parts and with his Dad put together the mini-bike. He then wrote a published article for Mother Earth News about it and got \$100. He graduated from Nashville Auto Diesel School and is a creative mechanic with inventions in his head for when he has the money to do them.

#2 Girl who got into horse riding because she was home and borrowed a pony during the day with her sister  
#3. Because the girls wanted their own horse, they got into an international business of their own inventing doing mail in picture horse shows (there are a lot of adults who do this.) As 12 and 10 year olds, they marketed and kept track of which places brought the most business with no help from parents. They made tack for model horses, gave out ribbons, etc. #2 handled customer calls from Germany, Tennessee and other places. At 14 and 12, they had enough money to buy their horse. #2 got a college degree in international business ( Eastern Michigan University) but didn't like the corruption so got another degree in counseling in California. Now she has a business in her home and does counseling in two places.

#3 Girl got a degree in Industrial Design from Western Michigan University, worked a year and went to China. She and her husband have several Business as Ministry projects and 6 children, 3 of whom are in Chinese public schools. Chinese children learn Addition first semester of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Subtraction 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, multiplication 1<sup>st</sup> semester grade 2, and division 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of grade 2. The younger preschool kids learn the multiplication tables listening to the older ones memorizing out loud. They also study English and Chinese characters – not easy. First grade classes can have 70 students (6 year olds) but they don't misbehave. Each child needs a tutor for the evening – the teacher knows if they don't – and a first graders' day can often be 12 hours long. The students wear uniforms.

#4 Boy couldn't read until he was close to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He found a Hardy Boy Mystery one day and he was a reader. He earned so many AP credits that he entered MSU as almost a junior. Currently, he is a Chemical Engineer and looking for new opportunities so moving to Wyoming with his family. He would have come to Michigan but there were no jobs here.

#5 Boy is all music and didn't like school learning ever. He did learn to build houses with a teen group church leader as did #4 in their teen years. He is so good at teaching and music that he has been teaching music to children and adults for 15 years. Now playing in a band that is quite popular, he is getting back into home repair as a third job to make ends meet with his family. #5 sang 3 years in public high school with the Acapella and Chorale choirs – the only reason to be in school except the social outlet. He is very practical with money and has had his own house for 5-6 years.

Some schools are prospering and they are largely private or Charter schools. The Classical Academy seems to be one of the best educational endeavors with the graduates highly in demand for jobs and almost 100% do graduate high school. The students learned Latin, sing their lessons in early grades, and memorize from the classical literature. They are flexible. They know how to learn.

Homeschooling is drawing many families as public schools have become dangerous. Children can delve into subjects of interest and read good books. Take a group of them to the science museum and they will amaze the curator with deep, intelligent questions. I was a homeschooler of my 5 children and have experienced it myself.

I urge passage of House Bill 4192. Children need your help in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Joan Johnson

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